

PROJECT SUMMARY

SNC Reference Number
(enter if previously assigned)

SNC 080132

County: Sierra County

Applicant: The Pacific Forest Trust

Project Title: Lemon Canyon Ranch Conservation Easement

PROJECT GOAL

The project goal is to acquire a conservation easement on the 1,400-acre Lemon Canyon Ranch in Sierra County, CA to permanently protect its working forests, wet meadows, and approximately 3.5 miles of Lemon Creek and its tributaries.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Lemon Canyon Ranch is located in a focal area the Pacific Forest Trust has named the “Southwestern Corridor of Working Forests.” This corridor plays a critical role in the Sierra Valley’s ecological and economic health by providing approximately half of the Valley’s water supply in addition to important wildlife habitat connectivity between the open meadows and upland forests. PFT has been working to protect this corridor of highly significant private lands for 10 years; we have completed three conservation easements and are currently working on an additional three easements to be completed in the next couple of years. The Lemon Canyon Ranch is adjacent to the Tahoe National Forest and another one of PFT’s easement projects- the Jamison Ranch. The protection of the Lemon Canyon Ranch would permanently protect 1,400 acres of ranchland and 3.5 miles of Lemon Canyon and its tributaries and would further result in over 5,800 contiguous acres of protected working landscapes, wildlife habitat and further protection to the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The project development and pre-acquisition costs for this conservation easement project were covered by grants from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Morgan Family Foundation, the Bella Vista Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the S. Bechtel Jr. Foundation, and a donation from the landowner.

The project scope under the proposed Sierra Nevada Conservancy Competitive grant would be to cover a portion of the acquisition cost for the conservation easement on the Lemon Canyon Ranch. The additional acquisition funding required to complete this project is being sought from the Wildlife Conservation Board and other private foundations.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Protection of the Lemon Canyon Ranch has been a priority of the Pacific Forest Trust and our conservation partners working in the Sierra Valley for over a decade. We do not have any letters of support to submit with this application, however we have received numerous demonstrations of support for this project through grants and information sharing from various partners including: the Morgan Family Foundation, the Bella Vista Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the S. Bechtel Jr. Foundation, and the Northern Sierra Partnership.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Sign Grant Agreement with SNC	May 2009
Secure Acquisition Funding from Additional Sources	November 2009
Submit 6-month progress report to SNC	November 2009
Write Escrow Instructions for Closing	December 2009
Ensure all Funding is in Escrow in Preparation for Closing	December 2009
Close and Record Conservation Easement	December 2009 or January 2010
Submit Final Report and Copy of Recorded Conservation Easement to SNC**	March 2010

**It can take up to 60 days to get a recorded document back from Sierra County during busy months.

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Acquisition of conservation easement	\$500,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$500,000